

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 34

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1—Relative to the Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) Initiative.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 3, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 1, Ashburn. Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) Initiative.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to support the establishment of the Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) for joint use by military aircraft from both the Naval Air Station Lemoore and the California Air National Guard, Fresno, and would request the Federal Aviation Administration to approve the creation of the Lemoore MOA as quickly as possible.

WHEREAS, The United States Navy at Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore in joint partnership with the California Air National Guard (CANG) 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, have proposed the establishment of a new Military Operations Area (MOA) over NAS Lemoore to satisfy many critical national defense training requirements, the Lemoore MOA Initiative; and

WHEREAS, The current price of military aircraft training in the existing training environment is substantial. The cost per flight hour of military aircraft is high. The current need to travel long distances to secure needed training requires large amounts of fuel and time to transit to and from the training location. Current training locations are increasingly crowded with other joint users of the training airspaces, which interferes with the quality of training and the safety of these training events. The current need of our military personnel to travel within the United States to secure needed training unavailable in the current training environment increases their time away from home, in a time where they are already overtaxed with overseas commitments; and

WHEREAS, The benefits of training in the new Lemoore MOA would be substantial because pilots would train closer to home base and reduce the costs of longer transits to existing training locations. The establishment of an additional, new training airspace location would relieve the pressure on the existing training locations increasing their training quality and safety. Our military personnel would have reduced requirements to travel away from home to secure needed training. It is estimated that up to 30 million taxpayer dollars annually could be saved or better utilized in training for national defense requirements. The increase in military service

member morale resulting from fewer training deployments from home would also be significant; and

WHEREAS, The existing NAS Lemoore Air Traffic Control (ATC) airspace already exists and is approximately 30 nautical miles by 70 nautical miles to support current NAS Lemoore airport operations. The Lemoore MOA Initiative would allow tactical training flights inside this existing airspace. No supersonic, weapons employment, or aggressive maneuvering flights over populated areas will be allowed in the new airspace; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that the high altitudes of the desired training flights and the sparsely populated rural environment of the land below the Lemoore MOA will have minimal environmental impact. To ensure this, the Navy in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is completing an Environmental Assessment (EA). The Lemoore MOA would not increase air emissions for the State Implementation Plan. Military training flights over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, including wilderness areas and the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, could be reduced if some of these flights were redirected to the Lemoore MOA; and

WHEREAS, The impact of the Lemoore MOA Initiative on the current civilian air traffic environment is considered minimal. The Navy in conjunction with the FAA is completing an operational analysis on both military and civilian air traffic patterns within the vicinity of NAS Lemoore. The footprint of the Lemoore MOA does not impact most air traffic flows; and

WHEREAS, Both the Navy and FAA are conducting outreach programs to the civilian aviation community to explain that the Lemoore MOA Initiative will allow for simultaneous military and civilian use of designated training airspace. These outreach programs are also informing civilian pilots that the Lemoore MOA will be managed in real time in an effort to prevent a conflict between military and civilian aircraft; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the President and the Congress of the United States to support the establishment of the Lemoore Military Operations Area for joint use by military aircraft from both the Naval Air Station Lemoore and the California Air National Guard, Fresno; and be it further

Resolved, That the California Legislature requests that the Federal Aviation Administration approve the creation of the Lemoore MOA as quickly as possible and that the California Congressional delegation pursue all efforts to ensure that the Lemoore MOA is established; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, the

Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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